

**REMARKS**

By way of the above amendments, claims 1-23 have been canceled, and claims 24-35 have been added. As such, claims 24-35 are presently pending.


The newly added claims add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested. In particular, the nucleic acid fragment of nucleotides 145-1578 of SEQ ID NO:1 (recited in claims 24 and 26) is disclosed at the top of Figure 1B, which shows a start codon beginning at nucleotide 145 and a stop codon beginning at nucleotide 1579 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

CELERA GENOMICS

By:

  
Justin D. Karjala  
Reg. No. 43,704

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Celera Genomics Corporation  
45 West Gude Drive, C2-4#20  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Tel: 240-453-3812  
Fax: 240-453-3084